

Craig Brown

10/1/42 ltr from Rev James Hall
Selkirk, Al.

My instructions are to state "very definitely" whether it is in my opinion worthwhile to continue our work at Craig and Klawock. My answer is "No" to Craig, "Yes" to Klawock. I'll now proceed to qualify my answers.

The present situation in Craig is not too favorable. There are few people there who are interested in any church and I was able to learn of only a half-dozen or so who were really interested in our church. Of course there is the possibility of reaching the children and of course new contacts will be made. And I do not like to think of handing over our work to anyone else and stepping out of the picture.

But aside from the actual situation here, there is the difficulty of serving this church and maintaining any regular program during the week, such as clubs for the youngsters etc. As you no doubt know a road has been started from Craig to Klawock. But it lacks about two miles of being completed and there seems to be no possibility of its being finished before the end of the war. The only communication is still by boat. If a man is to do anything at all in Craig he must be able to have dependable transportation at his convenience. When Mr. Holland was in Klawock he found it necessary to pay one of the Klawock elders \$5.00 a Sunday to reach Craig for services. And if he wished to go during the week he had to depend upon casual boats. Under these conditions any organized program would be impossible. Therefore I feel that if a man is to serve Craig and Klawock that he ought to have a dependable boat at his disposal. The waters he must traverse are fairly well sheltered and the boat would not have to be a large one. Such a boat could be purchased for \$1000 or less. To my mind this problem of transportation is important.

If a man is to serve the two fields I think that he should live in Klawock. He is more an integral part of the community there than he would be in Craig.

Craig. Mem 10/1/42 report from Leo James Hall of Ketchikan following visit

Craig

The population of Craig is normally eight to nine hundred, but as with Klawock, it is depleted and the present population is about four hundred and fifty. The school is maintained by the territory, and has four teachers and seventy-five children, about one-half of whom are white. There is no theater at present, but one is to open sometime in the near future. It will be run by the same management as that in Klawock. No other community activity. There are several bars in town and heavy drinking is prevalent.

There is no doctor or nurse here, but the nurse in Klawock will serve here also. Wireless service, electricity most of the day and night, mail boat and plane service, several stores.

Two other churches are organized here. The Seventh Day Adventists are holding intermittent services. This seems to be the home port for their worker. From here he goes on "missions" to Juneau for a month or so, returns for a month, and then off somewhere else. He was in Juneau while I was in Craig. They do not seem to have a very large following. The Christian Church is perhaps the strongest in spite of the fact that the minister is only there part of the year. They have recently been visited by a sort of preaching mission, a group of workers who stayed for a few weeks and then moved on. This may account for their present meetings. They have built a small building for their meetings. The minister is at present in Ketchikan holding services every evening over the Tongass Hardware Co.

The schoolteachers are at present attending the Christian Church and while I do not think they would be inclined to change to our church, I think they would be fair and co-operate in any way.

The Manse:

The manse here is a nice little building in good shape and at present rented to a Mr. Rogers and his wife and two small children. They are good people and would seem to be good tenants. They are painting and calsomining the interior and keeping up on needed minor repairs.

The exterior paint is good, and the roof does not leak. It is furnished with an oil burning range a nice living room suite etc. The bed is only passable, and if we were to furnish it fully, a rug would be needed for the living room.

At present there seems to be some trouble with the sewer line. The line was laid with used 4 inch iron pipe. It now seems to be rusting through, as it is continually giving trouble. It could be remedied by about 100 feet of new soil pipe. Mr. Rogers was in the process of digging up the whole line in order to find the obstruction while I was there. I understand that is redecorating the interior and working on the line in lieu of two months rent. This is fair enough.

The manse has a market value of about \$1000.00 with the possibility of sale to the present tenants.

The Church:

The Church looks good from the outside and is in good general condition except for one half of the roof. A few years ago, shortly before Mr. Young left, a new roof was put on the south side of the building. The other side leaks badly and should be repaired as soon as possible. George Haldane who is in charge of our property there thinks that the materials could be purchased for about \$30.00--if we can get shingles at the present time. I think he would volunteer his time if he had someone to help him.

The paint on the outside is good and the general condition is good throughout with the exception of this roof and the damage it has caused inside of the building. The interior is finished in celotex and this has stained badly. However with a coat of sizing, this could be calsomined and given a very decent appearance.

Heat is provided by a wood stove which is in pretty good shape and is adequate for the present.

Organ in good shape and there is a sufficient number of hymn books.

The market value at present is about \$1800 or possibly \$2000 if we fix the roof and interior. This is based on the possibility of selling it to the Seventh Day Adventists. I did not in any way approach them, but they do need a building and usually have some mission appropriations. I talked in confidence with Mr. J.T. Brown, the U. S. Commissioner and a long-time resident of Craig. He has handled real estate there and these estimates are based on his opinions. I think that if we did decide to dispose of this property and needed a representative in Craig, that he would be entirely suitable.

